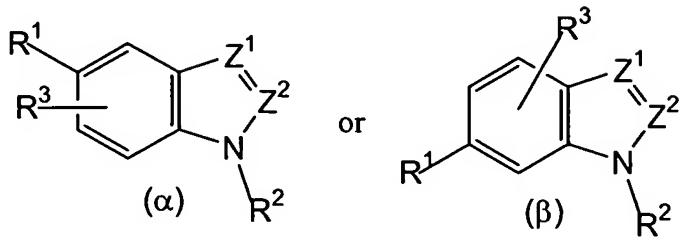
CLAIMS AMENDMENT

1-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended): A compound of the formula:

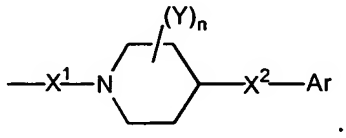


and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein each of Z^1 and Z^2 is independently CR^4 or N;

where each R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl (1-6C) and aryl, each of said alkyl and aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N and each of said alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^1 is



;

wherein

X^1 is CO, SO~~[[, SO_2]]~~ or CHOH;

Y is optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, or optionally substituted arylalkyl or two Y taken together may form an alkylene (2-3C) bridge;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

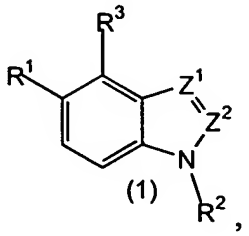
X^2 is CH, CH_2, CO, CHOH, CO or SO_2; and

Ar consists of one or two phenyl moieties directly coupled to X^2, said one or two phenyl moieties being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), CN, CF_3, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, NR_2, OR, SR, OOCR, NROCR; and phenyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more of the foregoing substituents, wherein R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl (1-6C) and aryl, each of said alkyl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each of said aryl or alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C);

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, NO_2, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), CN, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, and NROCR where R is H or alkyl (1-6C).

40. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 which is of the formula



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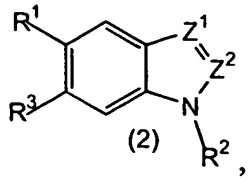

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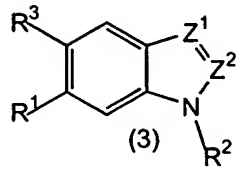
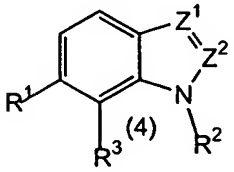


or



41. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each of said alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C) and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

42. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein X^1 is CO.

43. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein X^2 is CH_2.

44. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein X^1 is CO and X^2 is CH_2.

45. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are CR^4.

46. (previously presented): The compound of claim 44 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are CR^4.

47. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is N and Z^2 is CH.

48. (previously presented): The compound of claim 44 wherein Z^1 is N and Z^2 is CH.

49. (previously presented): The compound of claim 40 which is of the formula (2).

50. (previously presented): The compound of claim 44 which is of the formula (2).

51. (previously presented): The compound of claim 40 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

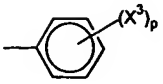
52. (previously presented): The compound of claim 44 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

53. (previously presented): The compound of claim 44 wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl constituting the substituent R^2 optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or 1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

54-55. (canceled)

56. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein n is 0.

57. (previously presented): The compound of claim 52 wherein n is 0.

58. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein Ar is  wherein each X^3 is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR, or NR_2 and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

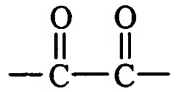
59. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^2 is CH and wherein R^2 is alkyl (1-6C) or is aryl, each of said alkyl or aryl constituting the substituent R^2 optionally including one or more heteroatoms which are selected from O, S and N, and each said alkyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR (where R is H or 1-6C alkyl), CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N and each of said aryl being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C).

60. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is CR^4 and R^4 is other than H.

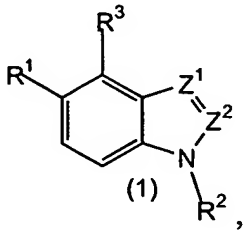
61. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 wherein Z^1 is CR^4 wherein R^4 is other than H and Z^2 is CH.

62. (previously presented): The compound of claim 61 wherein R^4 is alkyl either containing one or more heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, or said alkyl being substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, OR, SR, NR_2, RCO, COOR, $CONR_2$, OOCR, NROCR, CN, =O, a five- or six-membered saturated carbocyclic ring or heterocyclic ring containing 1-2 N, and a six-membered aromatic ring optionally containing 1-2 N, where R in the foregoing optional substituents is H or alkyl (1-6C); or both.

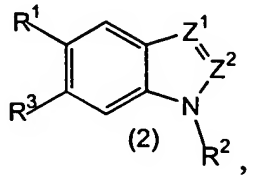
63. (previously presented): The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure



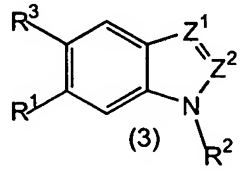
64. (previously presented): The compound of claim 63 which is of the formula



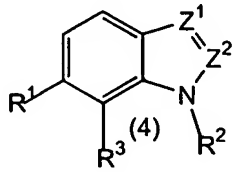
(1),



(2),



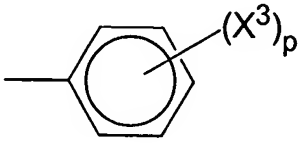
(3) or



(4)

65. (previously presented): The compound of claim 64 which is of the formula (2).

66. (previously presented): The compound of claim 62 wherein Ar is



wherein each X^3 is independently alkyl (1-6C), halo, OR; or NR_2 and p is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

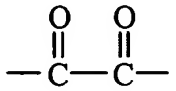
67. (previously presented): The compound of claim 62 wherein R^3 is halo or OR where R is alkyl (1-6C).

68. (previously presented): The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure NR_2.

69. (previously presented): The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure of a saturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

70. (previously presented): The compound of claim 62 wherein R^4 includes the structure of an unsaturated 5 or 6 membered ring containing 1-2 heteroatoms.

71. (previously presented): The compound of claim 66 wherein R^4 includes the structure:



72. (previously presented): The compound of claim 39 which is selected from the group consisting of:

4-benzylpiperdinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-chloro-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

6-chloro-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-chloro-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole carboxamide;

4-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

4-methoxy-(4-(4-fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-(4fluorobenzyl) piperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-cyclohexylmethylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-N-methylpiperazinyl-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(3-benzylamino-2-hydroxypropyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-[3-{(4-methoxybenzyl)-amino}-2-hydroxypropyl-]-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-{3-n-propylamino-2-hydroxypropyl}-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(4-pyridoyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(4-pyridylmethyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-methylacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)-indole-5-carboxamide;

N-acetyl-4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

N-(n-propylamide)acetyl 4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid-n-butylamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl-indole-5-carboxamide-1-acetic acid 4-methoxybenzyl amide;

3-(2-methoxyethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(2-methylaminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(2-aminoethylaminocarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-(4-benzylpiperidinylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-6-carboxamide;

3-(4-fluorobenzylcarboxamidyl)-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-[2-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethylcarboxamidyl]-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-trifluoroacetyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

6-methoxy-3-(2-dimethylaminoethylamino)carboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

3-trifluoroacetyl-4-benzylpiperidinylindole-5-carboxamide;

4-benzylpiperidinyl indole-5-carboxamide-3-carboxylic acid;

3-(2-dimethylamino)ethylaminocarboxamidyl-(4-benzylpiperidinyl)indole-5-carboxamide;

or is a compound as set forth in Table 5.

73. (previously presented): The compound of claim 72 which is

4-benzylpiperdinyl indole-5-carboxamide;

3-[2-dimethylaminoethylaminocarbonyl]-4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy indole-5-carboxamide; or

4-benzylpiperidinyl-6-methoxy benzimidazole-5-carboxamide.

74. (previously presented): The compound of claim 73 which is 4-benzylpiperdinyl indole-5-carboxamide

75. (previously presented): A method to treat a condition characterized by a pro-inflammation response which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 39 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said condition.

76. (previously presented): The method of claim 75 wherein said condition characterized by inflammation is acute respiratory distress syndrome, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, uveitis, IBD, acute renal failure, head trauma, or ischemic/reperfusion injury.

77. (previously presented): A method to treat a heart condition associated with cardiac failure, which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of any of claim 76 or a pharmaceutical composition thereof effective to treat said heart condition.

78. (previously presented): The method of claim 77 wherein said chronic heart condition is congestive heart failure, cardiomyopathy or myocarditis.